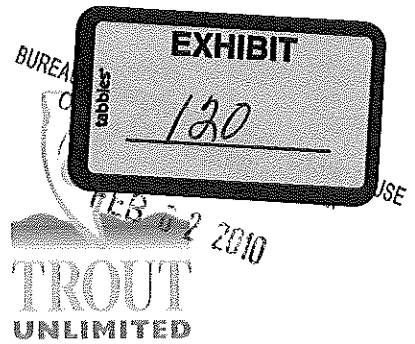


Mr. Paul E. Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
January 27, 2010



Mr. Stacey,

As a Mansfield resident and former member of the Technical Advisory Group that investigated the pumping dry of the Fenton River and Board Member of the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I am writing to express my support for the Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations.

The Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations, and the impact they will have of improving the quality of one of our state's most precious natural resources, cannot be under estimated.

Current regulations, however, do not adequately protect the fragile ecology of our rivers and streams. Connecticut's streams and rivers are already threatened from a myriad of sources. The proposed regulations will help to ensure that some of the dangers are kept in check.

The proposed flow requirements also take into account the natural high and low flow periods present in any given year, and recognize that water releases must be made to more closely match these naturally occurring cycles. Such natural flows will have a significant impact on the quality and health of the ecosystem.

Also crucial to the success of the proposed regulations is the inclusion of standards for groundwater withdrawal.

The majority of us depend on groundwater for drinking and other uses, putting enormous pressure on groundwater reserves and drawing resources from those streams that support wild trout.

We must ensure that groundwater withdrawals do not result in flow reductions in nearby streams, or even worse, the complete drying out of a streambed, which has been known to happen (as in the recent case of the Fenton River). It is especially important during periods of low flow to insure that withdrawals are carefully controlled.

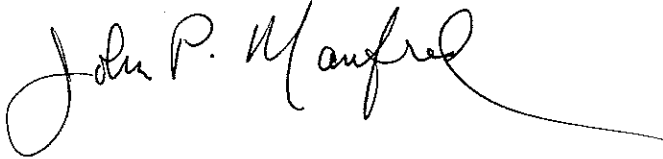
There are areas where the proposed regulations should be strengthened, particularly when it comes to urban rivers, which will likely be designated as Class 4. It is my feeling that

these rivers need the same protection as all others. Hopefully the new regulations will fully underline this need if we are able ever to improve them.

I am an active and involved Trout Unlimited member and I know that restoration efforts can be successful at improving rivers throughout the state. I know that there is a strong desire to protect our rivers and a will to work together, as conservationists, to work to restore them.

The Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations are an important step toward ensuring an abundant supply of water for human use while protecting the ecological needs and recreational enjoyment of Connecticut's rivers and streams.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Manfred". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

John P. Manfred
26 Puddin Lane
Mansfield, CT 06250
Board Member
Thames Valley Chapter
Trout Unlimited